No. G. 17303 / P. P. 134-18-285

GOVERNMENT OF H. H. THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE,
GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT,

Dated Bangalore, 14th February 1919.

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PRESS COMMUNIQUE.

The several orders passed from time to time in regard to food supply operations have been placed before the public who are aware of the policy of Government in this respect. It is set forth in clear terms in the Press Communique issued on the 10th December 1918.

2. Since then representations were received from the mercantile community that in consequence of the restrictions placed on the transport and sale of food grains within the State, commodities were not freely coming into the market, that the public were put to inconvenience and that if the restrictions were removed the situation would become easier. On a consideration of these representations and in view of the altered agricultural situation at the end of December last, Government issued orders on the 1st January 1919 rescinding the restrictions against transport of grains within the State from one place to another by road except in respect of village situated within ten miles of the British border.

3. The effect of this order has been that there has been a brisk demand for commodities in the centres of production and that purchasers were willing to pay higher prices than the maxima fixed by Government. In the result there has been a certain amount of speculation, which has led producers to hold up stocks with a view to obtaining higher prices, and there has been a certain amount of collusive transactions in violation of the rules regarding prices. The situation at present has been carefully considered by Government in consultation with District Officers and they are of opinion that a further step may be taken in the direction of allowing a freer play to the normal operations of trade. They have, therefore, resolved to cancel the orders fixing maximum wholesale and retail prices for the several food grains within the State. It is expected that the result of this measure will be to induce supplies to come more freely into the market even though there might be some rise in prices. At the same time, Government will reserve to themselves the power of commandeering stocks at prices that may be fixed by them from time to time when they find that stocks are being hoarded for purposes of speculation without coming into the market.

4. At present priority certificates are required for all movements of food grains by rail within the State. In future such certificates will not be required in the case of movements within the State itself, except in regard to certain stations within a short distance from the frontier. It is expected that this relaxation will give great facility to internal traffic.

Bangalore-Haribar line beyond Holalkere.
Bangalore-Hindupur line beyond Dodballapur.
Bangalore-Madras line beyond Bowringpet.

5. Steps will also be taken to import from outside the State large quantities of rice and of broken rice, which it is expected will serve as a substitute for ragi, in case the price of ragi should rise considerably. The co-operation of merchants will be invited in the arrangements made for these imports and at the same time any tendency to make undue profits in respect of these imports will be controlled by suitable terms of agreement on which such imports will be permitted.

6. Opinion is unanimous that these measures of food control can only be operated successfully if export from the State is kept under control and all loop-holes for clandestine removals are closed. For these purposes the movement of grain to and within a belt of country ten miles from the frontier will be kept under strict regulation and the existing arrangements for preventing unauthorised export will be administered with greater strictness.

7. With a view to greater efficiency and despatch of business the functions of the Director of Civil Supplies and those of Food Controller will be combined in the latter Officer, who will thus be solely responsible for carrying out all arrangements in regard to the import, distribution and authorised export of food grains.

By Order,
C. S. BALASUNDARAM IYER,
Chief Secretary to Government.

GPB—1,800—20-2-1919.